

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising:
generating, by a first entity, design information useable for designing semiconductor devices;
supplying, by the first entity, design information to a second entity;
designing, by the second entity, a semiconductor device using the design information;
and
alerting the second entity by the first entity if there is a change in the design information that would impact the manufacture of the semiconductor device.
2. The method of claim 1 including providing a design database in which the design information is stored by the first entity.
3. The method of claim 2 including accessing, by the second entity, of the design database to obtain design information.
4. The method of claim 3 including searching, by the first entity, of the design database to determine if the second entity has accessed the design database within a predetermined time period.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the alerting step includes alerting the second entity if the change in design information occurred during the predetermined time period.
6. The method of claim 4 including determining the latest time that the second entity has accessed design information that has been changed.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein alerting the second entity includes verifying that the second entity has not been alerted of the same design information change before.

8. The method of claim 1 including sending, by the second entity, feedback information to the first entity.
9. The method of claim 8 including receiving, by the first entity, of the feedback information from the second entity.
10. The method of claim 9 including providing the feedback information to a design semiconductor device design group for evaluation.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is a virtual fab.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the second entity is a customer of the virtual fab.
13. A virtual fab comprising:
 - a design database including design information for designing semiconductor devices;
 - a network coupled to the design database and adapted to communicate with a customer;
 - and
 - a design coordination engine, coupled to the network, to track changes in the design information that impact the manufacture of a semiconductor device for the customer.
14. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the customer accesses design information from the design database to design a semiconductor device.
15. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the design coordination engine includes a tracking module that determines if the customer has accessed the design database within a predetermined time period.
16. The virtual fab of claim 15 wherein the design coordination engine includes an alert module that alerts the customer if a change in design information occurred during the predetermined time period.

17. The virtual fab of claim 16 wherein the design coordination engine determines the latest time that the customer has accessed design information that has been changed.
18. The virtual fab of claim 16 wherein the alert module verifies that the customer has not been alerted of the same design information change before.
19. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the design coordination system includes an appraisal module.
20. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the design database include a design building block sub-database.
21. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the design database includes an associated technology sub-database.
22. The virtual fab of claim 13 wherein the design database includes a customer design profile sub-database.